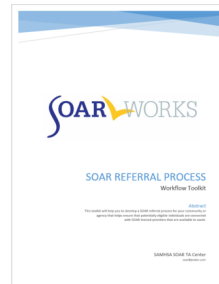




Build Your SOAR Toolbox! Referral Workflow Toolkit: Ensuring Equitable Service Delivery

Strong referral systems are the cornerstone of a successful SOAR initiative. An equitable SOAR referral system helps ensure that all eligible people within a service area have access to SOAR. To assist SOAR providers, the SAMHSA SOAR TA Center created the SOAR Referrals Toolkit. The Referrals Toolkit starts with an agency and community assessment, which helps determine areas that need SOAR outreach.



Once the assessment is complete, SOAR specialists can use the marketing template, referrals workflow, and follow-up tools to create a formal referral and marketing system for their SOAR program. The Referrals Toolkit also includes an Excel worksheet designed to track and triage SOAR referrals. The tracking includes demographics, such as race, to help communities assess if they are underserving certain populations. If you'd like more information on how to edit and use the SOAR Referrals Toolkit, please [reach out to your SOAR TA Center Liaison!](#)

[Download the Toolkit](#)



Recovery Is for Everyone

National Recovery month is held every September to educate the public about mental health and substance use disorders and to celebrate the gains accomplished by individuals in recovery. The 2021 Recovery Month theme, "[Recovery Is for Everyone: Every Person, Every Family, Every Community](#)," reminds people in recovery and those who support them that no one is alone in the journey through recovery. Everyone's journey may be different, but we are all in this together. In celebration of this Recovery month, the SAMHSA SOAR TA Center recognizes the value of lived expertise in the benefits acquisition process and extends thanks and

"I've had clients tell me, 'If you can do it, then so can I!' This is encouraging to me because this helps me feel that this works and makes a difference in someone's life. It is a true blessing to help someone get an income and then help them get housing and help them grow along the way."

Jess Soucy, SOAR Outreach Case Worker, Evansville, IN

appreciation to the 126+ SOAR trained case workers who identify as “Peers” or as “Individuals in Recovery.” These staff serve in a variety of roles using their shared experiences to assist others with finding financial stability in their recovery journey as well.

Highlighted in this article are just some of the ways peers have incorporated their lived expertise into their SOAR work. This article spotlights four SOAR workers from around the country whose stories have indeed demonstrated that Recovery Is for Everyone. Check out profiles from **Kristy Anderson**, retired SOAR representative from Albuquerque, New Mexico; **Jess Soucy**, SOAR Outreach Case Worker from Evansville, Indiana; **Maureen Ryan-Murphy**, Former Peer Recovery Specialist from Roanoke, Virginia; and **Veronica Delgado**, Certified Peer Worker in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

[Keep Reading](#)

Integrating SOAR With Peer Certifications



Integrating SOAR With Peer Certifications

The SAMHSA SOAR TA Center is proud to debut a new resource guide on practical ways that SOAR can be integrated into the peer-certification process. As peer-operated services are recognized for their positive impact on recovery-based outcomes, it is important to consider the positive impact SOAR certification can have on increasing peer workforce development and expanding community access to SOAR services. This guide provides practical steps on how stakeholders can collaborate with their state Peer Specialist Certification Boards to develop infrastructure that integrates SOAR within the certification process and provides current examples of successful models from states across the country.

[View Resource](#)

In Case You Missed It

[SOAR Webinar: The Medical Summary Report—A Deep Dive for SOAR Providers](#)

In this webinar, the SAMHSA SOAR TA Center took a deep dive into writing effective and culturally aware Medical Summary Reports. Recording and slides available for on-demand viewing. The SAMHSA SOAR TA Center is proud to debut a new resource guide on practical ways that SOAR can be integrated into the peer-certification process. As peer-operated services are recognized for their positive impact on recovery-based outcomes, it is important to consider the positive impact SOAR certification can have on increasing peer workforce development and expanding community access to SOAR services. This guide provides practical steps on how stakeholders can collaborate with their state Peer Specialist Certification Boards to develop infrastructure that integrates SOAR within the certification process and provides current examples of successful models from states across the country.

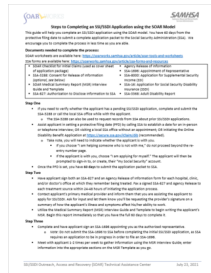
Events

[SOARing Over Lunch Conference Calls](#)

September 21, 2021, 1:00-2:00 p.m. ET

[Add SOARing Over Lunch to Your Calendar](#)

Application Tip! Steps to Completing an



SSI/SSDI Application Using the SOAR Model

“Steps to Completing an SSI/SSDI Application Using the SOAR Model” provides a seven-step process to complete a SOAR-assisted disability benefit application. Download today and use this two-page tool as a handy reference guide for all your disability benefit applications!

[Download the Tip Sheet](#)

Federal Updates

[SSA Update on SSI Benefits and Pandemic Relief](#)

SSA has recently changed its rules about how pandemic-related financial assistance affects an individual's eligibility for SSI or monthly SSI payment amount and will no longer count most types of pandemic-related financial assistance against eligibility or payment amount.

[Social Security Expands Compassionate Allowances Program for People with Severe Disabilities](#)

SSA has expanded the Compassionate Allowances program to include the following twelve conditions: Charlevoix-Saguenay spastic ataxia (ARSACS), choroid plexus carcinoma, CIC-rearranged sarcoma, congenital Zika syndrome, desmoplastic mesothelioma, Duchenne muscular dystrophy - adult, pericardial mesothelioma, refractory Hodgkin lymphoma, Renpenning syndrome, SCN8A-related epilepsy with encephalopathy, SYNGAP1-related NSID, and Taybi-Linder syndrome.

SOAR Jobs



Texas: IntegralCare is seeking a part-time SOAR Specialist based in Austin, Texas.

Ohio: The Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio is seeking a SOAR Ohio Training and Technical Assistance Coordinator based in Columbus, Ohio.

Virginia: Northern Virginia Family Service is seeking a full-time benefits counselor and SOAR advocate based in Oakton, Virginia.

Learn more about these positions on the [SOARWorks website](#). Do you have a job posting you would like to share with the SOAR community? Please submit it to the [SAMHSA SOAR TA Center](#)!



The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) Technical Assistance (TA) Center is sponsored by SAMHSA, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

Disclaimer: The SAMHSA SOAR Technical Assistance Center is sending this eNews with support from SAMHSA, HHS. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official view of HHS or SAMHSA.

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